

Charlotte County Weekly Department Highlights

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Community Development

The Parkside Zone Four Neighborhood Watch organized an award presentation for Rhonda Leonard on the evening of the 23rd of April in recognition for her work as the code enforcement officer for Parkside. It was well attended by Rhonda's family and many members of the local neighborhood watch as well as others in Parkside. Also in attendance were Rhonda's law enforcement counterpart Deputy Bill Miller, members of Habitat for Humanity, and various employees of Charlotte County. There were multiple speakers who all spoke highly of Rhonda's job within Parkside.

Community Services

Charlotte Sports Park

The Charlotte Stone Crabs had a six (6) game home stand from 4/23 – 4/28. Attendance at these games was as follows: Thursday, 4/23 – 1011; Friday, 4/24 – 1938; Saturday, 4/25 (Fireworks) – 1304; Sunday, 4/26 – 261; Monday, 4/27 – 363; Tuesday, 4/28 – 1055.

Upcoming Events: The Charlotte Sports Park will host the Prostyle Tournament on Saturday, 5/2. Games will be played on one practice field.

Tringali Recreation Center

Beach cleanup held at Englewood Beach was a great success. There were over 40 volunteers participating in effort to make "Charlotte Beautiful". The weather turned out great and after all their hard work all volunteers were provided a hotdog lunch with trimmings provided by Winn Dixie of Englewood.

Harold Avenue Recreation Center

Now basketball is our favorite sport, we love the sound of the ball dribbling up and down the court. The floor is fresh, the renovations are all done. Stop by Harold Avenue Recreation Center and join the fun! Last Sunday the "All Clear" was given allowing recreational activities to resume on the resurfaced wooden gym floor. In addition, Registrations for the Summer Youth Basketball League are still under way. The Youth Basketball League is open to area youth between the ages of 5 and 17 years old. The league, which will begin in May, consists of 10 regular season games followed by a postseason playoff. All interested parties have until Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 5 p.m. to register for all available league spots.

Port Charlotte Beach Recreation and Pool

This past week we had an 'Eyes and Ears" neighborhood watch meeting. They recognized Rhonda Leonard and Deputy Bill Miller as outstanding citizens helping with community service. There was a wedding held with 110 guests in attendance to celebrate this happy occasion. On Sunday, there was a Baby Shower with 30 guests in attendance. For this upcoming weekend we have a Birthday party scheduled for 50 people. For the same week, Port Charlotte Beach Pool had 184 paid admissions, was visited by 68 pass holders and had 79 water aerobics participants. In addition, one adult participated in a series of private swim lessons.

South County Regional Park and Pool

For the week of 4-22 through 4-28-15, South County Regional Park Pool had 334 paid admissions, was visited by 121 pass holders and had 73 water aerobics participants. Spring Session # 2 continued with 8 classes and 30 students.

Extension Services

Home and Garden Show Booth – Event Center – April 25 and 26 – The Theme is “Vines”

South Central Monthly CED – Face To Face Meeting – Manatee County Extension

Newspaper Article for April 27 – “Ornamental asparagus – not a fern”

MG Radio Show – WCCF-1580 – April 28 – Tom Becker and Lynn Buth

2015 MG Training – MG Training – “Tropical Fruit” – April 28 - Dr. Jonathan Crane, TREC

GI-BMP Training – April 29 – 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“Venomous Creatures” Presentation - Rotary Club of Murdock – 7:00 a.m. – Perkin’s Restaurant

2015 MG Training – MG Training – “Plant Pathology” – April 30 – Dr. Pam Roberts, SWFREC

Extension Staff Meeting – April 30 – 3 p.m.

Nursery BMP Meeting South Central District – May 1st – Manatee County Extension Office – 10 am to 12 pm

Parks and Maintenance

Supported Harbour Heights 5k & ½ Marathon run, with 631 entrants.

Procured two 10x10 ft. and two 10x20 ft. pop-up canopies with county logo to add to special events assets.

Completed installation of new playground, providing swings now, in Bissett Park.

Hosted evening CRA meeting in Bayshore Live Oak Park, with approximately 50+ attendees.

Relocated the water meters at NCRP

Took down and stored all the equipment from Snowbird baseball, wind screens, tents, chairs, tables

Applied Top-Choice insecticide on all fields

Supported the Easter egg hunt

Hosted a couple of weekend baseball tournaments

Supported the pickle ball event at SCRP

Natural Resources

This week land management staff participated in a community outreach opportunity at Vineland Elementary. The annual Earth Day event marks the 4th year Parks and Natural Resources staff has participated. Every year staff takes this opportunity to reach out to youngsters and teach them the value of our native wildlife, specifically the gopher tortoise. Staff visits the school and for about 20 minutes per class talks tortoises with children four years and up. This year Matt Bondi, Environmental Specialist, did most of the talking, teaching children about the habits of the gopher tortoise. Matt told the children of the gopher tortoise diet, living habits and the names of shell parts. Matt also explained the importance of the gopher tortoise as a “keystone” species and that by protecting the tortoise we also protect many other species dependent on the gopher tortoise and the habitat the tortoise lives in. Matt utilized some technical gear to “scope” a tortoise burrow and show the children a tortoise-eye view from underground. In the three hours Matt was on-site he spoke to approximately 100-150 children and they really appreciated his knowledge and patience.

This week county staff completed the large scale task of mapping exotic/invasive flora and mechanical management needs for all properties managed by Parks and Natural Resources properties. We were instructed to map these properties as efficiencies moving forward to meet the needs of environmental management in the coming years.

Historical Center

A lecture on “The mission of the Historical Center” was held for the Sunrise Kiwanis group with 35 adults in attendance.

Shakespeare in the Park on April 24, 2015 was a huge success! There were 143 adults and 5 kids in attendance. We had 24 people step up to the mic and recite Shakespearean scenes & sonnets as well as some personal poetry from our audience members. Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch’s Romeo and Juliet scene was unforgettable! Members from the PCHS Shakespeare Club, Peace River Center for Writers, FSW State College students & staff, and more came out to participate. We also received \$68 in donations to the Center!

Facilities Construction & Maintenance

Repairs and Maintenance

The necessary repair parts for the water fountain at Murdock campus have been found and a purchase order has been initiated. The fountain and the aeration bubble system work in tandem to keep pond water healthy and clean. This cascading fountain of water provides a memorable focal point for visitors and a relaxing view for staff sitting outside at lunch or break.

The wall construction in B building room 101 is complete. Electrical work will begin this week as part of the remodeling to accommodate newly hired Public Information Office staff.

The planned and approved demolition project is in the beginning phases at the Historical Center.

Operations

The Murdock Administration's pond aerators will be pulled up and further diagnosed. Keeping the pond water clean requires the proper aeration of bubbles. A preliminary assessment indicates the bubbler pucks may have sunk into the muck on the bottom of the pond. This will not allow the bubbles to rise out of the aeration screens and ultimately into the pond water strata as originally designed. This water feature for aeration bubbles adds necessary oxygen for viability of the pond plants and animals.

Project Management

Franz Ross drainage, parking, & lighting: the concept for the redesign of the playing field has been determined.

Harbour Heights drainage, parking, and court improvements: SWFWMD has logged the existing old well. The sidewalks are complete but not inspected.

Anger Park pier, parking, and drainage: the engineer of record has inspected the paving.

El Jobean fishing pier: Cost estimates are being prepared for repairing and completely replacing the pier.

Port Charlotte Beach fishing pier and boardwalk: The pier decking is being installed. The load requirement needed for the boardwalk pilings has been determined.

Harbour Heights boat ramp: the slope required by Community Services for the new ramp has been determined

Fire Station #10: the draft bid package for the fire sprinklers has been completed by purchasing.

Human Services

Dr. Faezeh Andrews, PhD, the 211 Information and Referral Supervisor completed the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program conducted by the Office of Emergency Management. These Team members provide voluntary assistance to our Charlotte County Emergency Management Office and the community during disasters and emergencies.

Staff from Human Services participated in the Try Transit Day activities on April 22, 2015 coordinated by the Community Health Improvement Partnership and Access to Care subcommittee. Commissioner Christopher Constance was the keynote luncheon speaker at the Virginia B. Andes Clinic.

Public Works

Active Construction Projects (may affect vehicular/boater/pedestrian traffic patterns)

2015 County Paving Program - This program provides for the resurfacing of roads in Greater Port Charlotte, Parkside, Deep Creek, and the Road & Bridge Districts. Construction Contract: Ajax Paving, Construction Schedule: March 2015 – Late 2015

The Contractor is still paving in the Peachland 4 Area of the Greater Port Charlotte District. The reclaim base work in the Midway 9 Area has been completed and the paving operations will begin.

To date, approximately 8,269 tons of S-III asphalt has been placed in the Greater Port Charlotte area. The time complete is 21.2 percent and the work completed is 16.7 percent.

CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) Widening – The purpose of this project is to widen CR 771 (Gasparilla Road) to a four-lane divided roadway, from SR 776 to the vicinity of Rotonda Boulevard East. The project will include the installation of sidewalks and bicycle facilities. This 790 calendar day project is funded by the 2009 Sales Tax, Road Impact Fees, Gasoline Tax and a State Grant. Construction Contract: Construction Manager at Risk, Halfacre Construction, Woodruff and Sons, Inc. will be performing on-site construction, Construction Schedule: 07/07/2014 – 09/04/2016.

- Zep Construction completed the pile driving for the new northbound bridge. The installation of bents and deck slabs will be the main construction activity through June 2015.
- Woodruff and Sons' Crew #1 is concentrating on utility tie-ins from SR 776 south to Rotonda Boulevard East.
- Woodruff and Sons' Crew #2 is removing the old utility system from Marathon Blvd south to Rotonda Boulevard East.
- Woodruff and Sons' Crew #3 began sidewalk construction from Keystone Boulevard, moving northward, importing fill material to begin road construction from San Domingo to Marathon Blvd.
- Additional crews are on-site completing storm drain structures and stormwater retention ponds.

U.S. 41 Microtunnels / Weirs – This project involves engineering and permitting for the directional drilling of culverts under US 41 at the Fordham, Elkcam, and Pompano Waterways, replacement of culverts at the North and South US 41 Access Roads within the Pompano Waterway, replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Elkcam Waterway, north of the US 41 Access Road, and replacement of a stand-alone weir across the Fordham Waterway, north of the US 41 Access Road. Construction Contract: ZEP Construction, Construction Schedule: 11/18/2013 – 5/12/2015

- Elkcam Waterway: Zep Construction is currently installing riprap along the new weir on the east side of the project. Final restoration is in progress.
- Fordham Waterway: Zep construction is currently waiting for TECO Gas Company to relocate an existing gas line that was previously relocated to the wrong location.
- Elmira Blvd: Zep Construction has completed all of the underground work and will be installing the new water and sewer lines across the canal. The contractor will begin roadway and sidewalk construction the week of May 4, 2015.

Construction is approximately 94% complete.

Projects in Design or Negotiation

Midway Boulevard Widening Phase Two – This project will complete the widening of Midway Boulevard between Sharpe Street and Kings Highway. Downstream stormwater improvements must be made before widening this section of the corridor. This project includes increasing the drainage capacity under US 41 at three locations in addition to the widening of Midway Boulevard from Sharpe Street to Kings Highway. This project was selected for inclusion in the 2008 Sales Tax Referendum. Design Contract: Giffels-Webster Engineers, Design/Permitting Schedule: 05/08/2012 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Jan - May 2015, Projected Start of Construction: June 2015

Bid opening was held on April 22, 2015; Submittals were reviewed and ranked. A recommendation to award the construction contract to Forsberg Construction will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval on May 12, 2015.

Tom Adam's Bridge – Phase 2 of the Tom Adams Bridge Rehabilitation will replace the existing tender house, electrical, and mechanical equipment. The proposed Tenderhouse will provide a gateway to the Manasota Key will feature a standing seam roof color coordinated with the bridge and large observation windows designed to withstand hurricane winds. The proposed Tenderhouse will provide visibility of traffic and pedestrians approaching the structure when the bridge is being opened or closed. Currently, the bridge tender's view is obstructed. The existing Tenderhouse will be removed providing a scenic outlook for pedestrians. The existing concrete railing and guardrail will be removed and replaced with a steel traffic barrier and aluminum handrail, which will allow for widening the sidewalk to a minimum of five (5) feet. The sidewalk surface will be topped to correct slope and alignment issues, making it easier for pedestrians to cross the bridge. The rehabilitation will also replace the existing Traffic Gates, Traffic Signals, the approach slabs (concrete slab which connect the bridge to the roadway), abutment wall cap, slope pavement (surface under the bridge approaches), plus the bridge will be repainted. Design Contract: Charlotte Engineering & Surveying, Design/Permitting Schedule: 07/02/2012 – Summer 2014, Procurement Process: Spring 2015, Projected Start of Construction: Summer 2015

Final design plans are complete and all permit applications have been submitted to the permitting agencies. The bid documents have been submitted to the Purchasing Department in preparation for bid solicitation.

Landscaping Projects

April 22-28, 2015

Basic landscape maintenance was performed at: Manasota Key; South Gulf Cove; Grove City Park; US 17 medians in Cleveland; US 41 Revitalization Phase I; Charlotte Harbor Gateway and Melbourne Street Bridges

Maintenance & Operations

April 22-28, 2015

A total of 42 new requests were received related to drainage, shoulder repair, and brush.

- Drainage line & grade: 5,600 SF in Northwest Port Charlotte
500 SF in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
16,500 SF in Road & Bridge South
6,300 SF in Englewood East
2,000 SF in Rotonda West
2,750 SF in Gulf Cove
7,800 SF in Greater Port Charlotte
- Small pipe install: 36 LF in Deep Creek
36 LF in Englewood East
- Menzie ditch cutting: 73,000 SF in South Charlotte Stormwater
80,000 SF in West Charlotte Stormwater
- Boom mower: Cut 82,550 CY in Greater Port Charlotte
Cut 6,000 CY in Punta Gorda Non-Urban
- Culvert cleaning: Cleaned 11 culverts in Englewood East
Cleaned culvert in Rotonda West
Cleaned 1 culvert in Road & Bridge West
Cleaned 21 culverts in Greater Port Charlotte
Cleaned 3 culverts in Northwest Port Charlotte
- Outfall: 36 LF in Englewood East
88 LF in Greater Port Charlotte
- Major Outfall: 73,184 SF in Englewood East

Contracted Services

ROW Mowing (Safety Mowing) for the following areas was completed: West County – Road & Bridge System,

North County- Greater Port Charlotte, Road & Bridge System, North West Charlotte, Deep Creek, and South County- Road & Bridge System.

Specialty Mowing is finishing up in West County for the Month of April.

Vertical Hedging continues in Englewood East with approximately 50% of the area complete as of April 28, 2015.

Mechanical Street Sweeping will be completed by April 30, 2015; this is a full sweep with all areas of the contract being addressed.

Tourism

May 2 – 10, 2015 is celebrated across the nation and throughout the state as National Travel and Tourism Week. It's a time to emphasize the importance of travel and tourism to America's economic, social and cultural well-being. Tourism is the single largest industry in Florida and in 2014, the Sunshine State welcomed 97.3 million visitors and during the same time, Charlotte County welcomed approximately 351,600 visitors. It's estimated tourism has more than a \$451 million economic impact on Charlotte County. Next Friday (May 15), the Charlotte County tourism industry will come together to celebrate tourism during the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau annual tourism luncheon at the Englewood Event Center. The event will celebrate "Ecologinomical" values and features a keynote address by internationally recognized filmmakers and advocates for the sustainable use and enjoyment of natural resources, Sean and Brooks Paxton, also known as the Shark Brothers. Afterward, the 2015 inductee into the Charlotte County Tourism Hall of Fame will be honored. Members of the tourism industry are invited to attend the event. Reservations are required and the cost is \$20. Learn more and purchase tickets by visiting chgi.eventbrite.com or contacting the Charlotte Harbor Visitor & Convention Bureau at 941-743-1900.